## COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN CALIFORNIA (BCRs 9, 15 and 33)



California Steering Committee Intermountain West Joint Venture

2005

## **California Steering Committee**

## **Intermountain West Joint Venture**

Virginia Getz, Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (Chair)
Myrnie Mayville, US Bureau of Reclamation
Pat Lauridson, California Department of Fish and Game
Kim Kreitinger, Point Reyes Bird Observatory
Dan Strait, US Fish and Wildlife Service
John Robinson, USDA Forest Service
Cindy Wise, Regional Water Quality Control Board - Lahontan

## **CONTENTS**

1.	Introdu	action	4
2.	Plannii	ng Objectives	5
3.	Directi	on and Connections	5 - 8
	No	rth American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI)	
	Int	ernational Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	
	Un	ited States Congress	
	Exe	ecutive Order 13186 – Protection of Migratory Birds	
		ner Mandates and Programs	
4.	Migrat	ory Bird Conservation Initiatives	8 - 11
	No	rth American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP)	
		rtners in Flight	
	U.S	S. Shorebird Conservation Plan	
	Int	ermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan	
	No	rth American Waterbird Conservation Plan	
5.	Other 1	Bird Conservation Programs	12 - 14
	Im	portant Bird Areas (IBA) Program	
	Eco	oregional Conservation Planning	
	Rai	nge-wide Sage Grouse Conservation Project	
	En	dangered Species Act	
6.	Priority	y Bird Species in California	14
7.	Priority	y Habitat Types	14
8.	Bird H	abitat Conservation Areas	14
9.	Landso	cape Mapping	15
10.	Habita	t Conservation Goals and Objectives	16
		LICT OF ELCUDES AND TABLES	
		LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES	
Figure	1	Bird Conservation Regions and IWJV in California	7
Figure	2	Digital map of Bird Habitat Conservation Areas	15
Table (	One	Priority Species from Bird Conservation Programs	
Table 7	Γwo	Prioritization of 23 Major Bird Habitats in California	
Table 7	Γhree	Bird Habitat Conservation Areas	25
		APPENDICES	
Appen	dix A	Priority Bird Species of California from Bird Conservation Programs	26

#### 1. Introduction

In 1986, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) was adopted by the United States and Canada to address the conservation and restoration of waterfowl, other migratory waterbirds, and the habitats upon which they depend. The Plan aims to restore waterfowl populations to 1970-79 levels and establishes specific population objectives for twenty-five species of ducks and five species of geese, plus trumpeter and tundra swans. It was updated in 1994 to include full participation by Mexico, and again in 1998 to include language strongly encouraging Plan partners to improve coordination with other wildlife initiatives, including those directed at other migratory birds, endangered species, fisheries and biodiversity. It will be updated again in 2003.

Six public-private partnerships, or joint ventures, were originally established by the Plan to coordinate the implementation of NAWMP and achievement of population and habitat objectives along flyway lines across North America, with eight more joint ventures having been formed in recent years. These joint venture partnerships include active participation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA) and other federal agencies, as well as state wildlife management agencies and a number of wildlife conservation groups, including Ducks Unlimited Inc., Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, and the National Audubon Society. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) was established by Congress in 1989 to implement the objectives of NAWMP. This program, re-authorized by Congress in 2002 at \$75 million/year, encourages and rewards partnerships among all wildlife conservation initiatives through two matching grant programs, a standard grant program and a small grant program.

The Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) was established in 1994 as the eleventh habitat joint venture. It encompasses parts of eleven Western states, including part of California (BCRs 9, 15, and 33). Public agencies and conservation groups work as partners through a California IWJV State Steering Committee to identify, protect, restore and enhance wetlands and other important habitats for waterfowl and other migratory birds, as well as native resident birds such as sage-grouse.

The California State Steering Committee includes representatives from California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, USDA Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA), Ducks Unlimited Inc, PRBO, Audubon California, and The Nature Conservancy of California. The group, which began meeting in April, 2001, is a forum for the discussion and implementation of projects to identify, protect and restore key wetlands and associated upland habitats in the California portions of Bird Conservation Regions (BCR) 9, 15, and 33.

In 1995 the IWJV Management Board adopted an Implementation Plan, which was intended to provide a framework for implementing the NAWMP in California and other states of the Intermountain West, and for developing more specific wetland focus area plans in each of those states. The California Steering Committee defined the following five waterbird and wetland focus areas, which were incorporated into the larger IWJV Implementation Plan, adopted in December 1995: Modoc/Pit River, Eastern Sierra, Honey Lake, Salton Sea, and Klamath Basin (shared with Oregon). Focus area plans were completed for Eastern Sierra and Klamath Basin Focus Areas. Plans for the other focus areas are in various stages of development. Salton Sea is now within the boundaries of the Sonoran Joint Venture. Waterfowl objectives were established for the Intermountain West and for California by the IWJV Management Board; these are included in the 1995 Implementation Plan.

In 2001, the IWJV Management Board determined that the 1995 IWJV Implementation Plan should be updated, as a Strategic Plan, and that it should be rewritten from the ground up, state by state. The Board also decided that this updated planning process should attempt to coordinate NAWMP and joint venture objectives with other bird initiatives operating within the Intermountain West region. That same year, the Board funded a project to work with state steering committees in developing coordinated "all bird" implementation plans for all the states of the Intermountain West Joint Venture. The California Steering Committee has met on a number of occasions since 2001 to develop an implementation plan for the California portion of the IWJV.

The coordinated "all bird" implementation plan for California not only contributes to an updated and expanded overall IWJV Implementation Plan, but will assist the IWJV Management Board in considering and ranking various habitat protection, restoration and enhancement projects for funding via the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and other programs.

## 2. Planning Objectives for California

- a. Create a planning forum, through the California Steering Committee of the IWJV in which representatives of state and federal conservation agencies and wildlife groups work collaboratively to develop coordinated habitat goals, objectives and projects that address the conservation needs of all bird species within the IWJV portion of California.
- b. Review, merge and synthesize the goals and objectives of existing bird conservation plans into a coordinated planning document that reflects the species and habitat priorities of all bird conservation programs in California. This document is intended to guide the Management Board of the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV), as well as IWJV partners, in updating and implementing IWJV goals and objectives for future bird conservation in the California portion of the IWJV.

#### 3. Direction and Connections

By taking a lead role in coordinated implementation planning in the Western states, the IWJV Management Board is following the direction of the **North American Waterfowl Management Plan** (NAWMP- 1998 Update). IWJV is also responding to direction and recommendations from other national sources and programs to attempt coordination of waterfowl and wetland habitat planning with the identified goals of other bird conservation programs. These other national sources and programs include:

North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI): NABCI was formed in 1998 as an international forum for public and private interests to coordinate international conservation efforts of existing major migratory bird initiatives. One goal of NABCI is to increase the effectiveness of, and coordination between, existing and new bird conservation initiatives, including the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. As a recommended framework for coordinated bird management, NABCI has adopted and mapped ecological units called Bird Conservation Regions (BCR), a number of which cover the area of the Intermountain West Joint Venture. California is covered by five BCRs, four of which are all or partly within the IWJV: Great Basin, Sierra Nevada, and Sonoran and Mojave Deserts. As the "all bird" planning process moves forward, the BCRs defined by NABCI (see Figure One on

page four) might prove to be the most relevant ecological regions for migratory bird planning and management.

**International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies**: The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) was founded in 1902 as a quasi-governmental organization of public agencies, including state wildlife agencies charged with the protection and management of North America's fish and wildlife resources. The IAFWA received a federal grant in FY/2001 to conduct "integrated all bird" conservation planning workshops for state wildlife agencies in FY/2001-2002. Since the national objectives of this grant closely parallel the IWJV's coordinated migratory bird planning effort, the IWJV is working with IAFWA staff to ensure that the workshops are complementary. Workshops were conducted in Colorado and Arizona in 2002, as well as Boise, Idaho and Billings, Montana in 2003. A workshop was held in California in 2004.

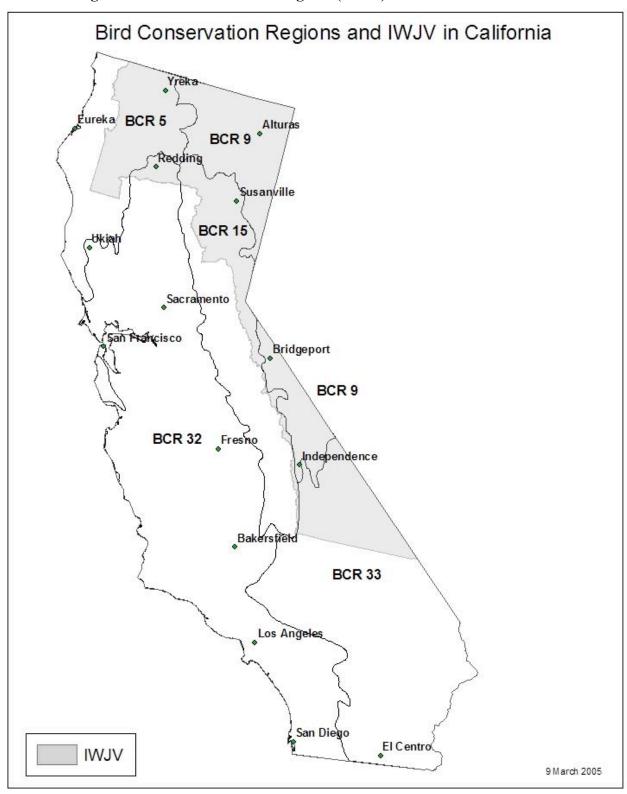


Figure 1 - Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) and IWJV in California

Congress: The US Congress strongly supports a public-private partnership approach to protecting and restoring wetlands and other important migratory bird habitats across North America, and they have signaled their support by increasing the federal funds available for migratory bird initiatives. In FY/2001, Congress re-authorized the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) and increased its authorized annual funding level from \$30 million to \$50 million. It was reauthorized again in FY/2002 at \$75 million per year. Appropriations for NAWCA continue to grow since the authorization level was increased. Congress also recommended a phased-in approach to fully funding the 15 habitat and species joint ventures that were in place in FY/2001, making it clear in budget language that Congress regards these joint ventures as a future primary delivery system for all federally-funded migratory bird programs. In its FY/2002 Interior Appropriations language, the House noted that the joint venture program "continues to be one of the greatest successes of the (Fish and Wildlife) Service, with funding leveraged to a greater extent than all other Service programs combined".

Executive Order 13186 – Protection of Migratory Birds: In January 2001 outgoing President Bill Clinton signed an executive order requiring all federal agencies which might have a measurable negative impact on migratory birds to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to promote the recommendations of NAWMP, NABCI and other migratory bird programs, as well as other conservation considerations. The Bureau of Land Management and USDA Forest Service developed a draft MOU with the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2001, which emphasizes a collaborative approach to migratory bird conservation, in cooperation with other agencies and organizations. Because this executive order addresses the integration of bird conservation principles, habitat restoration for migratory birds, and comprehensive planning among various bird conservation programs, these coordinated implementation plans developed by the IWJV should assist these federal agencies with implementation of the MOU. Other federal agencies will presumably also develop MOUs with the Fish and Wildlife Service to implement Executive Order 13186. This presidential Executive Order was reinforced by the Bush Administration on September 12, 2002 when U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Steve Williams issued Director's Order No. 146, which indicates, among other things, that joint ventures should deliver the full spectrum of bird conservation.

Other Mandates and Programs: In 2002, Congress passed a new Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (H.R. 2217), funding the new Act with an initial \$3 million for a matching grants program. Congress also created a new State Wildlife Grant program within the Interior and Commerce, Justice, State (CJS) budgets. This new funding program provides funding to state wildlife agencies for wildlife planning and conservation. Conservation grants are predicated on development of Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plans, which must be completed by October, 2005. The California Department of Fish and Game is moving forward with development of this strategy.

## 4. Migratory Bird Conservation Initiatives

There are four migratory bird initiatives for which national, regional and state plans have been or are being developed. Although the following programs have different but compatible approaches to planning for bird conservation, the goals, objectives, and priorities of each will be considered in the IWJV Coordinated Implementation Plan for Bird Conservation in California.

**North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP):** Adopted by the United States and Canada in 1986, and by Mexico in 1994, to address the conservation and restoration of waterfowl, other migratory waterbirds, and the habitats on which they depend. The Plan, as adopted, aims to restore

waterfowl populations to 1970-79 levels and establishes specific population objectives for twenty-five species of ducks, five species of geese, plus trumpeter and tundra swans.

The Intermountain West Joint is one of eleven public-private partnerships established to coordinate the implementation of NAWMP and the achievement of population and habitat objectives along flyway lines across North America. Public agencies and conservation groups work as partners through an IWJV State Steering Committee in California to identify, protect, restore and enhance wetlands and other important habitats for waterfowl and other migratory birds, as well as native non-migratory birds.

Partners in Flight: The national Partners in Flight (PIF) program began in 1990 as a coordinated effort to document and reverse apparent declines in the populations of neotropical migratory birds, those birds that breed north of Mexico and then migrate to Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean in the winter months. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation took the lead in bringing together federal, state, and local government agencies, foundations, conservation groups, industry and the academic community to address the problem of population declines. The reasons are complex, and include loss of breeding habitat due to fragmentation, alteration, urban expansion and natural disasters; loss or alteration of habitat in non-breeding areas and along migratory routes; and brood parasitism. The PIF program was later expanded to include all non-game land birds.

Today, Partners in Flight is an international program, with four regional coordinators and PIF working groups in most states. In 2000, the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) published the first comprehensive national plan for the program, titled *Partners in Flight: Conservation of the Land Birds of the United States*. This plan summarizes the goals and priorities of the various state Bird Conservation Plans, as well as 93 physiographic areas and seven generalized regions of the continental United States. The plan also encourages better coordination with other initiatives such as the NAWMP, U.S. Shorebird Management Plan, and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan. Passage of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act in 2001 provided a new federal funding program and commitment to neotropical migrant species addressed by Partners in Flight.

The California chapter of Partners in Flight (Cal PIF) was established in 1992 and the state was initially divided into physiographic areas for Partners In Flight, three of which covered the IWJV part of the state: Sierra Nevada, Mojave Desert, and Basin and Range. Although for purposes of coordinated bird conservation, these have now been replaced by the BCRs shown in Figure One on page four, Priority Bird Populations and Habitats were originally listed for various habitat types within those three listed physiographic areas.

CalPIF has also completed habitat and bioregion-based Bird Conservation Plans (BCP) for the following six general habitat types: Riparian, Oak Woodlands, Coastal Scrub and Chapparal, Grasslands, Coniferous Forests and the Sierra Nevada Bioregion. Focal species associated with the Grassland, Coniferous Forest, Shrub-Steppe and Riparian physiographic provinces are also listed in **Table One**. CalPIF has an Executive Committee, which establishes and modifies CalPIF priorities and committees and is comprised of agency and NGO members who agree to support and promote the goals of California Partners in Flight. Working Committees have also been established to address CalPIF priorities and are currently the main working entities of CalPIF.

The CalPIF Working Agreement, completed in January, 2003, defines the structure of CalPIF and outlines the mission, goal, background and objectives of Partners in Flight within California, and lays out the roles, responsibilities, and terms of the various committees and leadership positions.

CalPIF does not use the same ranking criteria as national PIF. Instead, they rely on focal species whose requirements define different spatial attributes, habitat characteristics, and management regimes representative of a healthy system. For example, the bird that requires the largest area to survive in a certain habitat is used to determine the minimum suitable area for that habitat type. Likewise, the requirements of non-migratory birds that disperse short distances to establish new territories will define the attributes of connecting vegetation. The species with the most exacting or demanding requirements for an ecological characteristic such as territory size determines the minimum acceptable value for that characteristic in an area that is protected or managed for biodiversity. The assumption, therefore, is that any landscape designed and managed to meet the needs of focal species will encompass the requirements of other species. Focal species identified by CalPIF are listed and ranked in **Table One** of this planning document.

**U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan**: The term shorebird is applied in North America to a large group of birds commonly called sandpipers and plovers, but also includes oystercatchers, avocets, and stilts. Of 214 species of shorebirds found worldwide, 53 regularly occur in the United States and, although they are found at some time of the year in all 50 states, the biology and ecology of most shorebird species is poorly understood. Technical and regional working groups were convened to address some of the known conservation and research issues for shorebirds and in 2000, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan was published by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, funded by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This national plan provides baseline information on shorebird populations and habitat, and addresses some of the known challenges to shorebird conservation, including low reproductive potential and habitat loss. It also articulates hemispheric and national goals for restoring and stabilizing shorebird populations, especially those known to be in decline. These goals emphasize research, monitoring and cooperative landscape management strategies at the international, national, and regional levels. As with NABCI and the Partners In Flight plan, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan encourages close coordination with other bird conservation initiatives, as well as implementation of shorebird conservation strategies through the Intermountain West Joint Venture and other habitat joint ventures established by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The shorebird plan defines Shorebird Planning Regions across North America that follows the lines of NABCI Bird Conservation Regions. Portions of California are within the shorebird plan's Intermountain West Shorebird Planning Region.

An *Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan* was also released as a draft in 2000. The plan notes that perhaps a million shorebirds breed in the Intermountain West and that millions more migrate through the area each year. The plan recognizes that finding ample high quality fresh water will be the greatest challenge faced by shorebirds in the Intermountain West. The regional plan articulates seven goals and associated objectives and strategies related to habitat management, monitoring and assessment, research, outreach and planning. The planning goal includes objectives to coordinate shorebird planning and projects with other migratory bird initiatives and specifically with the Intermountain West Joint Venture. The Intermountain West plan identifies eleven species of shorebirds that regularly breed in the region, as well as 23 additional species that are annual migrants. The Intermountain West plan also recognizes eleven Key Shorebird Areas, five of which are within or partly

within California: Mono Lake, Honey Lake, Goose Lake, Klamath Basin and Owens Lake. An updated Intermountain West plan was released in March, 2004.

Eighteen priority shorebird species in California are listed and ranked in **Table One**; those with a score of 1 are ranked Critically Important; those with a score of 2 are ranked Very Important; those with a score of 3 are ranked Important. Mono Lake has been classified as a Global site under the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN); Honey Lake is a Regional site under WHSRN. The Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan, when completed, will provide the primary source of information for shorebird species and habitat objectives for the coordinated implementation plan for bird conservation in California. Shorebird species and other priority bird species are shown within their associated critical habitats in **Appendix A**.

North American Waterbird Conservation Plan: The North American Waterbird Conservation Plan provides a continental framework for conserving and managing colonial nesting waterbirds, including 209 species of seabirds, coastal waterbirds (gulls, terns, pelicans), wading birds (herons, ibises), and marsh birds, such as certain grebes and bitterns. The overall goal of the plan is to ensure that the distribution, diversity and abundance of populations, habitats (breeding, migratory, and non-breeding) and important sites of waterbirds are sustained or restored throughout their ranges in North America. The geographic scope of the plan covers 28 countries, from Canada to Panama, as well as islands and nearshore areas of the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea. As with NAWMP and Partners in Flight, the waterbird partnership includes federal, state and provincial wildlife agencies, individuals, and nonprofit conservation organizations.

Also, as with PIF and other migratory bird plans, this plan includes a goal to establish conservation action and exchange information and expertise with other bird conservation initiatives, especially NABCI and the habitat joint ventures established by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, including IWJV.

Volume One of the North American plan covers 165 species of colonial-nesting birds, as well as three grebes that nest semi-colonially. Volume Two will cover 44 species of marsh birds. On October 23, 2001, a second draft of Volume One was released for review. In this draft plan, the conservation status of all North American waterbird species was evaluated, adapting the protocol from Partners in Flight and the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan. Under this classification system, a number of species found in California as breeders or migrants fall into the **Species of Moderate Concern** or **Species of Low Concern** categories for North America, Northern Hemisphere, Western Hemisphere, and Cosmopolitan (world-wide) including the American white pelican, California gull, white-faced ibis, western grebe, Clark's grebe, and green heron. A number of other species are found in California but are classified as **Species Not at Risk** in North America. The status of these species in California may of course be more or less threatened than their global, hemispheric, or continental status.

In December 2001 the process was initiated for developing an Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan. A first draft was released in August 2002. When this regional plan is completed, it will articulate conservation and management goals and objectives for waterbirds in California and other states of the Intermountain West Joint Venture, as well as identify and describe habitat types and locations of important waterbird habitat in California and other Western states. It will hopefully be the primary source of information for waterbird species and habitat objectives for this Coordinated Implementation Plan for Bird Conservation in California.

#### 5. Other Bird Conservation Programs:

In addition to the four migratory bird initiative described above, there are a number of other important bird conservation programs which will be reviewed, considered and included in a Coordinated Implementation Plan for Bird Conservation in California. These include:

**Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program:** The IBA Program is an international, site-based approach to bird conservation that began in Europe in the mid-1980s, when BirdLife International sponsored a continent-wide inventory of key sites for birds. The effort spread to the United States, and in the mid-1990s the American Bird Conservancy and National Audubon Society completed a pilot project to identify and describe the Important Bird Areas of Pennsylvania. As of the summer of 2001, 43 states had IBA programs, including three states that have published guides to their IBAs.

The IBA program recognizes that there are places on the landscape that provide exceptionally valuable or essential habitat for one or more species of birds, including breeding, wintering or migratory habitat. Identifying, recognizing, monitoring, and stewarding these sites can form the basis of a landscape-level conservation network, not just for birds but also for other species of wildlife.

California's Important Bird Area (IBA) Program began as a volunteer-driven effort in the mid 1990s. It was greatly expanded by Audubon California into a fully-funded research project in 2000, with standardized site criteria and a shift away from just public lands, in order to make the program more representative of the state's complex biological diversity. A team of dozens of technical advisors contributed hundreds of hours granting interviews, providing data and reviewing sites. Approximately 150 IBAs in 58 California counties have been identified by Audubon California and the final Important Bird Areas of California was published in 2004.

#### IBAs in California are defined as:

- Less than 100,000 acres in extent
- Possessing a bird community distinct from the surrounding region
- Satisfying one of the "IBA Criteria" (see below)
- National Audubon Society is currently developing criteria to assign levels of significance (e.g. Global, National, etc.) to IBAs across the country. The following four criteria were used in identifying California IBAs:
  - P >10% of California/1% Global population (breeding and/or wintering) of one or more sensitive taxa
  - L ->10 listed/sensitive species (incl. federally and state threatened and endangered) regularly occurring
  - S = 10,000 possible on a 1-day count
  - W > 5000 waterfowl possible on a 1-day count

Several of the IBAs were identified as having "critical" or "high" threat levels, meaning that a significant portion of their habitat was under immediate threat of modification due to human activity. Major identified threats include suburban sprawl and associated habitat destruction (e.g. road-building, streambed alteration), agricultural expansion (esp. vineyards) and exotic species. Interim conservation recommendations will be developed for these sites and Audubon California will develop relationships

with appropriate partners through an "IBA Stewardship Program" similar to that established with IBA programs in Pennsylvania and other states. Audubon California will then work cooperatively with these stewards to reduce the threat levels of each of these sites. More information can also be found on California's Important Bird Area Program website: http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/ca.html.

Ecoregional Conservation Planning: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has adopted ecoregion-based planning as the most effective way to achieve its national mission of preserving a diversity of plants, animals, and natural communities. The planning process used by TNC follows a methodology outlined in their publication *Geography of Hope* (2000) that defines a vision of conservation success at an ecoregional scale, and is based on documenting and mapping a list or "portfolio" of biologically outstanding sites that represent a full complement of ecosystems, natural communities, and species characteristics of the ecoregion. This methodology may be used to direct TNC programs and influence other conservation efforts across the United States. The ecoregional plans are based on amended ecoregional units delineated by Bailey et al (1998).

The portion of California within the Intermountain West Joint Venture also falls within five of The Nature Conservancy's ecoregions: Great Basin, Modoc Plateau/East Cascades, Columbia Plateau, Sierra Nevada, and Mojave Desert.

Development of the Conservation Blueprint for the Great Basin began in 1999 and involved extensive literature review, as well as personal interviews with about 170 recognized experts on the flora, fauna and biodiversity of California, Nevada and other states of the Great Basin ecoregion. The plan, which was released by TNC in 2001, breaks the ecoregion into 29 "ecological systems" and identifies 358 potential conservation areas, or "portfolio sites", many of which are entirely or partly in California. The Mojave Desert and Sierra Nevada Ecoregional Conservation Plans were released in 2001. The Columbia Plateau Ecoregional Assessment was completed in 1999, but is being expanded and redone in 2004, according to new standards and criteria. The Modoc Plateau/East Cascades Ecoregional Assessment is currently (June 2004) being developed.

Although TNC's ecoregional plans are not specifically bird conservation plans, they do identify and classify those habitat types, areas, and sites which provide important habitat for birds. Only those birds identified as conservation targets for the seven ecoregions are listed for the portfolio sites in those ecoregional plans. Target Bird Species, listed by TNC for each ecological system group, were obtained from the literature and from interviews with acknowledged experts. Target bird species from all four of the listed ecoregional plans are included in **Table One**.

Range-wide Sage Grouse Conservation Project: The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2000 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to develop a strategy for the conservation of sage grouse throughout its range. California Department of Fish and Game, as well as its federal land management partners, are heavily involved in sage grouse planning and recovery efforts at the state, regional and range-wide scales.

**Endangered Species Act**: The Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended, mandates the protection of threatened and endangered species of plants and animals and the development of a recovery plan for each species. In California, there are a number of birds listed as Endangered (E), Threatened (T), Proposed Threatened (PT) or Candidate (C) status under the ESA. Due to their legal

status under the ESA, these listed and petitioned species are automatically included in any list of priority bird species for the IWJV in California, even though independent measures are being taken under the ESA to recover their populations.

## 6. Priority Bird Species in California

Many of the bird conservation programs described above, including the federal Endangered Species Act and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan/IWJV, have developed, or will develop, as part of their overall planning process, a list of priority bird species, species of concern, or target species, either for California or the entire Intermountain West region. The State of California maintains a list of Endangered and Threatened Animals of California, a California Special Animals List, and a Fully Protected Animals list. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and USDA Forest Service (Region Five) maintain "species of concern" lists, which include bird species which could become candidates for listing. PRBO also has a Bird Species of Special Concern list, National Audubon Society has an Audubon WatchList of Birds, and The Nature Conservancy has developed a list of bird "target species" for the five ecoregions which cover the IWJV portion of California. The California Steering Committee has reviewed these lists, including TNC's target bird species, and has combined and indexed these priority species in **Table One**, and again in **Appendix A**.

## 7. Priority Habitat Types

In 2003 and 2004, the California Steering Committee met in Sacramento and reviewed 23 habitat types defined by various Partners in Flight conservation plans, as well as California Wildlife-Habitat Relationships (WHR), and The Nature Conservancy's Ecoregional Plans. Habitat types were grouped into three categories of priority, A, B and C, defined below. Three criteria were used to rank these habitat types: 1) Statewide importance to birds; 2) Degree of threat; and 3) Opportunities (funding, partnerships, and feasibility for habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement. The three categories were defined as:

Priority A: High threat, high opportunity, and high value to birds statewide

Priority B: One criterion may be high, but generally the habitat is of moderate concern

Priority C: Relatively low threat, low opportunity, low value as habitat statewide

The ranked list of 23 habitat types developed by the California Steering Committee for the part of the state within the IWJV is shown as **Table Two**.

#### 8. Bird Habitat Conservation Areas

In 2004, the California Steering Committee met in Sacramento, reviewed existing maps and literature, and consolidated more than 100 IBAs and other conservation sites into the 29 Bird Habitat Conservation Areas (BHCA), shown on **Table Three**.

It must be understood that Bird Habitat Conservation Areas are intended to display areas where bird habitat conservation projects may take place, where state partners believe the best opportunity exists for effective conservation activities. However, the BHCAs have no official status. In the case of all of these units (private or public) BHCA designation simply notes where conservation activities could occur. Such action would, of course, be predicated on concurrence, collaboration and cooperation with all landowners involved.

## 9. Landscape Mapping

The following map (**Figure 2**) depicts 29 Bird Habitat Conservation Areas as delineated by the California Steering Committee.

Intermountain West Joint Venture California Bird Habitat Conservation Areas Alturas Eureka Redding Susanville Ukiah Sacramento San Francisco Bridgeport Fresno Independence 0 Bakersfield Los Angeles AMERICAN San Diego BIRD El Centro CONSERVANCY

Figure 2 – Bird Habitat Conservation Areas (BHCA's) for California

## 10. Habitat Conservation Goals and Objectives

In August 2004, IWJV Steering Committee chairs from 11 western states met with IWJV staff in Salt Lake City for two days to develop draft goals and objectives for the Priority A and B habitats listed in each state plan. Criteria were agreed upon for goals and objectives and each steering committee chair was asked to meet with their state steering committee to finalize these goals and objectives. The habitat goals and objectives for the IWJV portion of California are included as follows:

### **Priority A Habitats**

High overall rating: high to medium value to birds, high to medium threat, high to medium opportunity for protection, restoration, and or enhancement of habitat.

#### **Wet Meadow**

Goal: Protect wet meadow habitat wherever it occurs within California Bird Habitat Conservation

Areas in the IWJV.

Objective: Protect wet meadow within California BHCAs (12,069 acres) at a rate of 10% (1,209 acres)

per year between 2005 and 2015

## **Palustrine Emergent Wetlands**

Goal: Protect palustrine emergent wetland habitat wherever it occurs within California Bird

Habitat Conservation Areas in the IWJV.

Objective: Protect palustrine emergent wetland habitat within California BHCAs (25,871 acres) at a

rate of 10% (2,587 acres) per year between 2005 and 2015

#### Riparian/Riverine Wetlands

Goal: Protect riparian/riverine wetland habitat wherever it occurs within California Bird Habitat

Conservation Areas in the IWJV.

Objective: Protect riparian/riverine wetland habitat within California BHCAs (6,397 acres) at a rate of

10% (640 acres) per year between 2005 and 2015

#### Grasslands

Goal; Protect native grassland habitat wherever it occurs within California Bird Habitat

Conservation Areas in the IWJV.

Objective: Protect native grassland habitat within California BHCAs (30,521 acres) at a rate of 10%

(3.052 acres) per year between 2005 and 2015

## Sagebrush/Bitterbrush

Goal: Protect sagebrush/bitterbrush habitat wherever it occurs within California Bird Habitat

Conservation Areas in the IWJV.

Objective: Protect sagebrush/bitterbrush habitat within California BHCAs (237,961 acres) at a rate of

10% (23,796 acres) per year between 2005 and 2015

## Aspen

Goal: Protect aspen groves wherever they occur within California Bird Habitat Conservation

Areas in the IWJV.

Objective: Protect aspen groves within California BHCAs (1,404 acres) at a rate of 10% (140 acres)

per year between 2005 and 2015

## **Priority B Habitat**

Medium overall rating: one criterion may be high (habitat value, threat, opportunity) but generally of medium importance to birds statewide.

#### **Montane Shrublands**

Goal: Protect montane shrubland habitat wherever it occurs within California Bird Habitat

Conservation Areas in the IWJV.

Objective: Protect montane shrubland habitat within California BHCAs (4,562 acres) at a rate of 10%

(456 acres) per year between 2005 and 2015

#### **High Elevation Coniferous Forest**

Goal: Protect high elevation coniferous forest habitat wherever it occurs within California Bird

Habitat Conservation Areas in the IWJV.

Objective: Protect high elevation coniferous forest habitat within California BHCAs (11,574 acres) at a

rate of 10% (1,157 acres) per year between 2005 and 2015

#### **Lacustrine Wetlands**

Goal: Protect lacustrine wetland habitat wherever it occurs within California Bird Habitat

Conservation Areas in the IWJV.

Objective: Protect lacustrine wetland habitat within California BHCAs (36,773 acres) at a rate of 10%

(3,677 acres) per year between 2005 and 2015

#### Pinyon/Juniper

Goal: Protect pinyon/juniper habitat wherever it occurs within California Bird Habitat

Conservation Areas in the IWJV.

Objective: Protect pinyon/juniper habitat within California BHCAs (16,560 acres) at a rate of 10%

(1,656 acres) per year between 2005 and 2015

## **Desert Scrub**

Goal: Protect desert scrub habitat wherever it occurs within California Bird Habitat Conservation

Areas in the IWJV.

Objective: Protect desert scrub habitat within California BHCAs (56,087 acres) at a rate of 10% (5,609

acres) per year between 2005 and 2015

## Joshua Tree

Goal: Protect remaining Joshua tree habitat wherever it occurs within California Bird Habitat

Conservation Areas in the IWJV.

Objective: Protect remaining Joshua tree habitat within California BHCAs (563 acres) at a rate of 10%

(56 acres) per year between 2005 and 2015

#### **TABLE ONE**

# PRIORITY SPECIES FROM BIRD CONSERVATION PROGRAMS (Bird Conservation Regions (BCR) 9, 15, and 33)

# North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) and the Intermountain West JV (IWJV) Strategic Plan (1995) Priority Waterfowl Species

(A/B=NAWMP, I=IWJV)

Greater Scaup (A) Northern Pintail (A) Lesser Scaup (A)

Trumpeter Swan (I) Mallard (A) Pacific Greater White-fronted Goose (B)

Wrangel Island Snow Goose (B)

Redhead (B)

Tundra Swan (I)

Canvasback (B)

Wood Duck (B)

Ring-necked Duck (B)

American Wigeon (B)

## No. Am. Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Priority Waterfowl Species Bird Conservation Regions (BCR) 9, 15 and 33

Tule Greater White-fronted Goose Cackling Canada Goose Northern Pintail
Mallard Lesser Scaup Redhead
Wrangel Island Snow Goose Pacific Greater White-fronted Goose
Redhead American Wigeon Ring-necked Duck

## No. Am. Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Priority Bird Species (37 non-waterfowl species) Bird Conservation Regions (BCR) 9, 15 and 33

American Avocet	Long-billed Curlew	Solitary Sandpiper
American Dipper	Lucy's Warbler	Tricolored Blackbird
American White Pelican	MacGillivray's Warbler	Warbling Vireo
Black Swift	Marbled Godwit	Western Wood-Pewee
Bell's Vireo	Marsh Wren	Whimbrel
Black-bellied Plover	Nashville Warbler	White-faced Ibis
Black-chinned Hummingbird	Northern Harrier	Willow Flycatcher
Black-headed Grosbeak	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Wilson's Phalarope
Black-necked Stilt	Rufous Hummingbird	Yellow Rail
Calliope Hummingbird	Sandhill Crane	Yellow Warbler
Hooded Oriole	Short-eared Owl	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Lewis's Woodpecker	Snowy Plover	Yellow-headed Blackbird

## California Partners in Flight Conservation Plans (BCP) Focal Bird Species for Four Major Habitat Types

(44 species listed for: G=Grasslands, R=Riparian, F=Coniferous Forest, S=Shrub-Steppe)

	F	
Brown Creeper (F)	Golden-crowned Kinglet (F)	Sage Thrasher (S)
Bank Swallow ®	Grasshopper Sparrow (G)	Song Sparrow ®
Bell's Vireo ®	Gray Flycatcher (S)	Swainson's Hawk ®
Black-backed Woodpecker (F)	Green-tailed Towhee (S)	Swainson's Thrush ®
Black-headed Grosbeak ®	Juniper Titmouse (S)	Vaux's Swift (F)
Black-throated Gray Warbler (F)	Pileated Woodpecker (F)	Warbling Vireo ®
Black-throated Sparrow (S)	Red-breasted Nuthatch (F)	Western Meadowlark (G) (S)
Blue Grosbeak ®	Savannah Sparrow (G)	Western Tanager (F)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (S)	MacGillivray's Warbler (F)	White-tailed Kite (G)
Brewer's Sparrow (S)	Virginia's Warbler (S)	Willow Flycatcher ®
Common Yellowthroat ®	Lark Sparrow (S)	Wilson's Warbler ®
Dark-eyed Junco (F)	Loggerhead Shrike (S)	Yellow Warbler ®
Ferruginous Hawk (G)	Northern Harrier (G)	Yellow-billed Cuckoo ®
Flammulated Owl (F)	Olive-sided Flycatcher (F)	Yellow-breasted Chat ®
Fox Sparrow (F)	Sage Sparrow (S)	

# **U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan** and **Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan**

(23 species listed by Conservation Priority 1-2)

(25 species listed by Colliser various 1 fronty 1 2)				
American Avocet (2)	Lesser Yellowlegs (2)	Solitary Sandpiper (2)		
Baird's Sandpiper (2)	Long-billed Dowitcher (2)	Snowy Plover (1)		
Black-bellied Plover (2)	Long-billed Curlew* (1)	Spotted Sandpiper (2)		
Black-necked Stilt (1)	Marbled Godwit (1)	Western Sandpiper (2)		
Dunlin (2)	Pectoral Sandpiper (2)	Willet (1)		
Greater Yellowlegs (2)	Red-necked Phalarope (2)	Wilson's Phalarope (2)		
Killdeer	Semipalmated Plover (2)	Wilson's Snipe (2)		
Least Sandpiper (2)	Semipalmated Sandpiper			

### **North American Waterbird Conservation Plan**

(NA=North America; WH-Western Hemisphere; C=Cosmopolitan)

( ' ' ' ' ' '	, ··	-,
American White pelican (NA)	Clark's Grebe (NA)	Snowy Egret (WH)
Black Tern (C)	Eared Grebe (C)	Western Grebe (NA)
Black-crowned Night Heron (C)	Forster's Tern (NA)	White-faced Ibis (WH)
California Gull (NA)	Franklin's Gull (WH)	
Caspian Tern (C)	Sandhill Crane (WH)	

## **Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan Bird Conservation Regions (BCR) 9 and 15**

American White Pelican	Eared Grebe (staging)	Western Grebe
Black Tern	Forster's Tern	White-faced Ibis
Black-crowned Night Heron	Franklin's Gull	Yellow Rail
Clark's Grebe	Greater Sandhill Crane	
Common Loon	Least Bittern	

## State of California Threatened and Endangered Birds List

(13 species/subspecies listed as SE or ST plus Federal)

American Peregrine Falcon (SE) Inyo California Towhee (SE) Western Snowy Plover (ST)
Bald Eagle (SE) Least Bell's Vireo (SE) W. Yellow-billed Cuckoo (SE)

Bank Swallow (ST) Northern Spotted Owl (FT) Willow Flycatcher (SE)

Great Grey Owl (SE) Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (FE)

Greater Sandhill Crane (ST) Swainson's Hawk (ST)

#### State of California Fully Protected Animals List

(6 bird species/subspecies listed)

American Peregrine Falcon Greater Sandhill Crane Trumpeter Swan Golden Eagle Southern Bald Eagle White-tailed Kite

#### California Dept of Fish and Game Bird Species of Special Concern List (2003)

(83 species/subspecies in BCRs 9,15,33)

American White Pelican Double-crested Cormorant Common Loon Great Egret Great Blue Heron American Bittern Snowy Egret Black-crowned Night Heron Least Bittern White-faced Ibis Black-chinned Sparrow Purple Martin Aleutian Canada Goose Lawrence's Goldfinch Canvasback Cooper's Hawk Harlequin Duck Northern Goshawk Sharp-shinned Hawk Golden Eagle Ferruginous Hawk Northern Harrier White-tailed Kite Swainson's Hawk Bald Eagle Tricolored Blackbird Osprey Merlin Prairie Falcon Peregrine Falcon Chipping Sparrow Ruffed Grouse Greater Sage-grouse Crissal Thrasher Yellow Rail Yellow-breasted Chat California Thrasher Brewer's Sparrow Greater Sandhill Crane Le Conte's Thrasher Western Snowy Plover Long-billed Curlew Black Tern Grav-headed Junco California Gull Bendire's Thrasher Caspian Tern Inyo California Towhee Yellow-headed Blackbird Forster's Tern Western Y-B Cuckoo Short-eared Owl Long-eared Owl Burrowing Owl Black-tailed Gnatcatcher Great Gray Owl Northern Spotted Owl California Spotted Owl Vaux's Swift Black Swift Costa's Hummingbird Rufous Hummingbird Allen's Hummingbird Bank Swallow Lewis' Woodpecker Hermit Warbler Red-breasted Sapsucker Olive-sided Flycatcher Pacific Slope Flycatcher Willow Flycatcher Little Willow Flycatcher SW Willow Flycatcher Grey Flycatcher Brown-crested Flycatcher Yellow Warbler Loggerhead Shrike Black-capped Chickadee Lark Sparrow Virginia's Warbler Least Bell's Vireo Grav Vireo Lucy's Warbler California Horned Lark

## California Bird Species of Special Concern List (PRBO)

(34 Bird Species/subspecies in BCR 9, 15, 33 -- Three Levels of Priority 1-3)

American White Pelican (1)	Morcom's Yellow Warbler (2)	Lucy's Warbler (3)
Harlequin Duck (1)	California Spotted Owl (3)	Black Tern (3)
Burrowing Owl (1)	Belted Kingfisher (3)	Purple Martin (1)
Crissal Thrasher (1)	Tule Greater-fronted Goose (2)	Cackling Canada Goose (2)
Dadhaad (2)	Month ann Hannian (2)	Cummon Tonogon (2)

Redhead (2)

Sage-grouse (2)

Long-eared Owl (2)

Loggerhead Shrike

California Swainson's Thrush (2)

Plack shimed Sparrows (2)

Northern Harrier (2)

Summer Tanager (3)

Yellow Rail (2)

Short-eared Owl (2)

Snowy Plover (3)

Yellow Rail (2)

Snowy Plover (3)

California Horned Lark (3) Black-chinned Sparrow (2) Yellow-breasted Chat (3)

Lesser Sandhill Crane (3) Grasshopper Sparrow (2) Sora (3)

Bufflehead (3) Yellow-headed Blackbird (2) American Bittern (3)

Least Bittern (3)

### Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) (9 species)

(E=Endangered, T=Threatened, PT=Proposed Threatened, C=Candidate)

Bald Eagle (T)	Inyo California Towhee (T)	SW Willow Flycatcher (E)
California Condor (E)	Least Bell's Vireo (E)	Western Snowy Plover (T)
Greater Sage-grouse ©	Northern Spotted Owl (T)	Yellow-billed Cuckoo ©

## Birds of Conservation Concern 2002 -- FWS Region One (37 species) Bird Conservation Regions (BCR) 9, 15 and 33

Lawrence's Goldfinch	Solitary Sandpiper
Le Conte's Thrasher	Swainson's Hawk
Lewis' Woodpecker	Tricolored Blackbird
Loggerhead Shrike	Virginia's Warbler
Long-billed Curlew	Whimbrel
Marbled Godwit	White-headed Woodpecker
Northern Spotted Owl	Williamson's Sapsucker
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Wilson's Phalarope
Peregrine Falcon	Yellow Rail
Prairie Falcon	Yellow Warbler
Rufous Hummingbird	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Sage Sparrow	
Snowy Plover	
	Le Conte's Thrasher Lewis' Woodpecker Loggerhead Shrike Long-billed Curlew Marbled Godwit Northern Spotted Owl Olive-sided Flycatcher Peregrine Falcon Prairie Falcon Rufous Hummingbird Sage Sparrow

## **Bird Species of Conservation Concern List – BLM (7 species)**

		` 1	
Bendire's Thrasher	Gray Vireo	Sage Grouse	
	3	e e	
Burrowing Owl	Le Conte's Thrasher	Tricolored Blackbird	
e	Ze conte o imagner	TITOTOTOTO DIMONOTO	
California Spotted Owl			
Camoma Spotted 5 Wi			

#### Sensitive Species List- USDA Forest Service - Region Five

	$\sim$	•	•	1 4 3 7 1 7	
- 1	Va	100100	110	14 National Forests)	
•	$\sim$	Decres	111	14 National Polesisi	
٠,		Peeres	111	i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	

(6 Species in 14 National 1 diests)					
Greater Sandhill Crane	Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
Northern Goshawk	Willow Flycatcher				
Swainson's Hawk					
	Greater Sandhill Crane Northern Goshawk				

## Sierra Nevada Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)

(15 bird conservation targets in four ecological groups)

W. Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Black Swift	Harlequin Duck
Swainson's Thrush	California Spotted Owl	Great Gray Owl
Willow Flycatcher	Yellow-headed Blackbird	Black Tern

California Gull Forster's Tern Greater Sandhill Crane

Northern Harrier White-faced Ibis Sage Grouse

#### **Great Basin Ecoregional Conservation Blueprint (TNC)**

(35 bird conservation targets)

Cooper's Hawk	Northern Goshawk	Sage Sparrow
Redhead	Juniper Titmouse	Ferruginous Hawk
Swainson's Hawk	Sage Grouse	Western Snowy Plover
NI	W V.11 1:11. 1 C 1	C 41

Northern Harrier Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Gray Flycatcher Prairie Falcon Peregrine Falcon

Gray Flycatcher Prairie Falcon Peregrine Falcon
Greater Sandhill Crane Blue Grosbeak Pinyon Jay
Yellow-breasted Chat Least Bittern Loggerhead Shrike

Yellow-breasted Chat

California Gull

Lewis' Woodpecker

Flammulated Owl

White-faced Ibis

Least Bittern

Loggerhead Shrike

Virginia's Warbler

Long-billed Curlew

Sage Thrasher

Wilson's Phalarope

Eared Grebe

American Avocet

Brewer's Sparrow Calliope Hummingbird

#### Mojave Desert Ecoregional Plan (TNC)

(18 bird conservation targets in 6 ecological groups)

Phainopepla	Gray Vireo	Scott's Oriole
Blue Grosbeak	Brown-crested Flycatcher	Burrowing Owl
Costa's Hummingbird	Inyo California Towhee	Lawrence's Goldfinch
Lucy's Warbler	SW Willow Flycatcher	Summer Tanager
Vermilion Flycatcher	Western Least Bittern	W. Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Yellow Warbler Yellow-breasted Chat LeConte's Thrasher

#### Modoc Plateau/East Cascades Ecoregional Plan (TNC) (Ecoregional Plan is Not Yet Completed)

Klamath Mountains Ecoregional Plan (TNC) (12 Target Species/Subspp)

Bald Eagle	Western Least Bittern	Swainson's Hawk
Greater Sandhill Crane	Tri-colored Blackbird	Band-tailed Pigeon
W. Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Northern Spotted Owl	Great Gray Owl
Black Swift	Rufous Hummingbird	Oak Titmouse

#### Columbia Plateau Ecoregional Plan (TNC-1999)

(21Target/Focal Species/Subspecies)

Grasshopper Sparrow	Loggerhead Shrike	Burrowing Owl
Bullock's Oriole	Sage Grouse	Sage Sparrow
Brewer's Sparrow	Sage Thrasher	Lark Sparrow
Black-throated Sparrow	Ferruginous Hawk	Lewis' Woodpecker
Yellow Warbler	Yellow-breasted Chat	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Willow Flycatcher	Lazuli Bunting	Red-naped Sapsucker
Virginia's Warbler	Gray Flycatcher	Prairie Falcon

## **TABLE TWO**

# PRIORITIZATION OF 23 MAJOR BIRD HABITATS IN CALIFORNIA (Bird Conservation Regions (BCR) 9, 15, and 33)

## Part One - Ranking Criteria

## **Priority A Habitats**:

High overall rating: high to medium value to birds, high to medium threat, high to medium opportunity for protection, restoration, and or enhancement of habitat.

Wet Meadow Palustrine Emergent Wetlands Riparian / Riverine Grasslands Sagebrush / Bitterbrush Aspen

### **Priority B Habitats:**

Medium overall rating: one criterion may be high (habitat value, threat, opportunity) but generally of medium importance to birds statewide.

Montane Shrublands Joshua Tree

High Elevation Coniferous Forest Mid-elevation Coniferous Forest

Lacustrine Wetlands Ponderosa Pine

Pinyon/Juniper Agricultural Cropland
Desert Scrub Agricultural Pasture

## **Priority C Habitats:**

Low overall rating: low to medium relative habitat value, threat, and/or opportunity statewide.

Cliffs / Caves

Badlands

Urban

Sand Dunes

Juniper

Greasewood Shrubland

Alpine

Habitat classifications are based on various bird conservation plans developed by California Partners in Flight (CalPIF), California Wildlife-Habitat Relationships (WHR), and The Nature Conservancy's Ecoregional Plans.

#### TABLE THREE

#### BIRD HABITAT CONSERVATION AREAS

In 2003 and 2004, the California Steering Committee of IWJV met in Sacramento to decide and map Bird Habitat Conservation Areas (BHCA) in the IWJV portion of California. These areas, listed below, combine many smaller sites and conservation areas, and reflect a diversity of the priority habitats listed in **Table Two**.

- 1. Honey Lake Valley and Tributaries
- 2. Klamath Basin
- 3. Modoc Plateau / Upper Pit River / Goose Lake
- 4. Madeline Plains and Southern Mountain Ranges
- 5. Surprise Valley
- 6. Warner Mountains
- 7. Big Valley / Fall River Valley / Lower Pit River
- 8. Scott Valley
- 9. Upper McCloud River
- 10. Eagle Lake
- 11. Lake Almanor Basin
- 12. Feather River Tributaries and Meadows
- 13. Sierra Valley
- 14. Sierra Meadows Northern
- 15. Carson River Watershed and High Sierra Lakes
- 16. Walker River Watershed
- 17. Bridgeport
- 18. Bodie Hills
- 19. Mono Lake Basin
- 20. June Lake Complex
- 21. Adobe and Benton Valleys
- 22. Crowley Lake / Owens Valley
- 23. White Mountains / Deep Springs Valley
- 24. Inyo Mountains and Saline Valley
- 25. Amargosa River
- 26. Panamint Canyons
- 27. Argus Range
- 28. Cottonwood Creek
- 29. Sweetwater Mountains

## APPENDIX A – PRIORITY BIRD SPECIES OF CALIFORNIA FROM BIRD CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Species	NAWMP and IWJV Strategic Plan (1995) Priority Waterfowl Species	NAWCA Priority Waterfowl Species, BCRs 9, 15, and 33	NAWCA Priority Bird Species, BCRs 9, 15 and 33	CA PIF Conservation Plans (BCP) Focal Bird Species for 4 Major Habitat Types	US Shorebird Conservation Plan and Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan	North American Waterbird Conservation Plan	Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan – BCRs 9 and 15	State of California Threatened and Endangered Birds List	State of California Fully Protected Animals List	CA Dept. of Fish and Game Bird Species of Special Concern List (2003)	California Bird Species of Special Concern List (PRBO)	Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Birds of Conservation Concern (2002) – FWS Region One, BCRs 9, 15, 33	Bird Species of Conservation Concern List - BLM	Sensitive Species List – USDA Forest Service – Region Five	Sierra Nevada Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Great Basin Ecoregional Conservation Blueprint (TNC)	Mojave Desert Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	Klamath Mountains Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	Columbia Plateau Ecoregional Plan (TNC - 1999)
Aleutian Canada Goose										X										
Allen's Hummingbird										X										
American Avocet			X		X								X				X			
American Bittern										X	X									
American Dipper			X																	
American Peregrine Falcon								X	X											
American White Pelican			X			X	X			X	X						X			
American Wigeon		X																		
Bald Eagle								X		X		X							X	
Baird's Sandpiper					X															
Band-tailed Pigeon																			X	
Bank Swallow				X				X		X										
Bells' Vireo			X	X				X					X							
Belted Kingfisher											X									
Bendire's Thrasher										X			X	X						
Black Tern						X	X			X	X					X				
Black-backed Woodpecker				X																
Black-bellied Plover			X		X															
Black-capped Chickadee										X										
Black-chinned Hummingbird			X																	
Black-chinned Sparrow										X	X		X							
Black-crowned Night Heron						X	X			X										
Black-headed Grosbeak			X	X																
Black-necked Stilt			X		X															
Black Swift			X							X			X			X			X	
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher										X										
Black-throated Gray Warbler				X																
Black-throated Sparrow				X																X
Blue Grosbeak				X													X	X		

	1		1	1								1				1 1			1 1	
Species	NAWMP and IWJV Strategic Plan (1995) Priority Waterfowl Species	NAWCA Priority Waterfowl Species, BCRs 9, 15, and 33	NAWCA Priority Bird Species, BCRs 9, 15 and 33	CA PIF Conservation Plans (BCP) Focal Bird Species for 4 Major Habitat Types	US Shorebird Conservation Plan and Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan	North American Waterbird Conservation Plan	Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan – BCRs 9 and 15	State of California Threatened and Endangered Birds List	State of California Fully Protected Animals List	CA Dept. of Fish and Game Bird Species of Special Concern List (2003)	California Bird Species of Special Concern List (PRBO)	Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Birds of Conservation Concern (2002) – FWS Region One, BCRs 9, 15, 33	Bird Species of Conservation Concern List - BLM	Sensitive Species List – USDA Forest Service – Region Five	Sierra Nevada Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Great Basin Ecoregional Conservation Blueprint (TNC)	Mojave Desert Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	Klamath Mountains Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	Columbia Plateau Ecoregional Plan (TNC - 1999)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				X																
Brewer's Sparrow				X						X			X				X			X
Brown Creeper				X																
Brown-crested Flycatcher										X								X		
Bufflehead											X									
Bullock's Oriole																				X
Burrowing Owl										X	X		X	X				X		X
Cackling Canada Goose		X									X									
California Condor												X								
California Gull						X				X						X	X			
California Horned Lark										X	X									
California Spotted Owl										X	X			X	X	X				
California Swainson's Thrush											X									
California Thrasher										X										
Calliope Hummingbird			X														X			
Canvasback		X								X										
Caspian Tern						X				X										
Chipping Sparrow										X										
Clark's Grebe						X	X													
Common Loon							X			X										
Common Yellowthroat				X																
Cooper's Hawk										X							X			
Costa's Hummingbird										X								X		
Crissal Thrasher										X	X		X							
Dark-eyed Junco				X																
Double-crested Cormorant										X										
Dunlin					X															
Dusky Canada Goose	X																			
Eared Grebe						X	X										X			
Ferruginous Hawk				X						X			X				X			X
Flammulated Owl				X									X				X			
Forster's Tern						X	X			X						X				

	wl w1			4			pı	- p					ш		Α,		<u> </u>			al
	VJV Strategi rity Waterfo	y Waterfowl ', 15, and 33	y Bird , 15 and 33	ation Plans d Species for ypes	onservation ountain West oird Plan	Waterbird an	Vest Waterbii an – BCRs 9	iia Threatene Birds List	iia Fully als List	h and Game Special 003)	Species of List (PRBO	ered Species	vation Conce egion One,	Conservatior LM	ies List – USDA – Region Five	coregional an (TNC)	regional ueprint (TN0	Scoregional	ains n (TNC)	ıu Ecoregion 19)
Species	NAWMP and IWJV Strategic Plan (1995) Priority Waterfowl Species	NAWCA Priority Waterfowl Species, BCRs 9, 15, and 33	NAWCA Priority Bird Species, BCRs 9, 15 and 33	CA PIF Conservation Plans (BCP) Focal Bird Species for 4 Major Habitat Types	US Shorebird Conservation Plan and Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan	North American Waterbird Conservation Plan	Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan – BCRs 9 and 15	State of California Threatened and Endangered Birds List	State of California Fully Protected Animals List	CA Dept. of Fish and Game Bird Species of Special Concern List (2003)	California Bird Species of Special Concern List (PRBO)	Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Birds of Conservation Concern (2002) – FWS Region One, BCRs 9, 15, 33	Bird Species of Conservation Concern List - BLM	Sensitive Species List Forest Service – Regic	Sierra Nevada Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Great Basin Ecoregional Conservation Blueprint (TNC)	Mojave Desert Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	Klamath Mountains Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	Columbia Plateau Ecoregional Plan (TNC - 1999)
	N PI S <sub>I</sub>	z <u>z</u>	S		D I A	Č	In C	St	St P1	CBC	υ <u>ν</u>	F(	B (2 B	Ğ Ö	Se Fe	S	<i>9</i> 0	M	K	O E
Fox Sparrow				X																
Franklin's Gull						X	X										X			
Golden Eagle									X	X			X							
Golden-crowned Kinglet				X																
Grasshopper Sparrow				X							X									X
Gray Flycatcher				X						X							X			X
Gray Vireo										X			X	X				X		
Gray-headed Junco										X										
Great Blue Heron										X										
Great Egret										X										
Great Gray Owl								X		X					X	X			X	
Greater Sage-grouse										X		X	X		X					
Greater Sandhill Crane									X	X					X	X	X		X	
Greater Scaup	X																			
Greater Yellowlegs					X															
Green-tailed Towhee				X																
Harlequin Duck										X	X					X				
Hermit Warbler										X										
Hooded Oriole			X																	
Inyo California Towhee								X		X		X						X		
Juniper Titmouse				X													X			
Killdeer					X															
Lark Sparrow				X						X										X
Lawrence's Goldfinch										X			X					X		
Lazuli Bunting																				X
Least Bells' Vireo										X		X								
Least Bittern							X			X	X						X			
Least Sandpiper					X															
Le Conte's Thrasher										X			X	X				X		
Lesser Sandhill Crane											X									
Lesser Scaup	X	X																		
Lesser Yellowlegs					X															

Species    April 1985																					
Little Willow Flycatcher	Species	NAWMP and IWJV Strategic Plan (1995) Priority Waterfowl Species	NAWCA Priority Waterfowl Species, BCRs 9, 15, and 33	NAWCA Priority Bird Species, BCRs 9, 15 and 33	CA PIF Conservation Plans (BCP) Focal Bird Species for 4 Major Habitat Types	US Shorebird Conservation Plan and Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan	North American Waterbird Conservation Plan	Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan – BCRs 9 and 15	State of California Threatened and Endangered Birds List	State of California Fully Protected Animals List	CA Dept. of Fish and Game Bird Species of Special Concern List (2003)	California Bird Species of Special Concern List (PRBO)	Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Birds of Conservation Concern (2002) – FWS Region One, BCRs 9, 15, 33	Bird Species of Conservation Concern List - BLM	Sensitive Species List – USDA Forest Service – Region Five	Sierra Nevada Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Great Basin Ecoregional Conservation Blueprint (TNC)	Mojave Desert Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	Klamath Mountains Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	Columbia Plateau Ecoregional Plan (TNC - 1999)
Little Willow Flycatcher	Lewis's Woodpecker			X							X			X				X			X
Loggethead Shrike																					
Long-billed Curlew					X							X		X				X			X
Long-billed Dowitcher				X		X															
Long-eared Owl	Long-billed Dowitcher					X															
Lucy's Warbler											X	X									
MacGillivray's Warbler         X				X															X		
Mallard         X </td <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td>					X																
Marbled Godwit         X		X	X																		
Marsh Wren         X			- 11	X		X								X							
Merlin         Merlin<																					
Morcom's Yellow Warbler         Mashville Warbler         X											X										
Nashville Warbler         X												X									
Northern Harrier  Northern Goshawk  Northern Pintail  X X X   S   S   S   X X X X X X X X X X				X																	
Northern Goshawk Northern Pintail X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X					X						X	X					X	X			
Northern Pintail         X         X         Image: Control of the pintail o																X					
Northern Spotted Owl         Image: Control of the control of th		X	X																		
Oak Titmouse         Image: Control of the Control of Co									X		X		X	X						X	1
Olive-sided Flycatcher         X																					
Osprey         Securific Greater W-fronted Goose         X         X         S				X	X						X	X		X							1
Pacific Greater W-fronted Goose         X         X         S <t< td=""><td>·</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></t<>	·																				1
Pacific Slope Flycatcher         Image: Control of the control o		X	X																		
Pectoral Sandpiper         Image: Control of the											X										
Peregrine Falcon         Image: Control of the co						X															
Phainopepla         Image: Control of the control											X			X				X			
Pileated Woodpecker         X         X         S																			X		
Pinyon Jay					X																
Prairie Falcon         Image: Control of the cont																		X			
Purple Martin         X         <											X	X		X							X
Redhead         X         X         I         I         X         I         X         I         I         X         I         I         X         I         I         X         I </td <td></td>																					
	•	X	X															X			
	Red-breasted Nuthatch				X																

				1					1							1 1			1	
Species	NAWMP and IWJV Strategic Plan (1995) Priority Waterfowl Species	NAWCA Priority Waterfowl Species, BCRs 9, 15, and 33	NAWCA Priority Bird Species, BCRs 9, 15 and 33	CA PIF Conservation Plans (BCP) Focal Bird Species for 4 Major Habitat Types	US Shorebird Conservation Plan and Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan	North American Waterbird Conservation Plan	Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan – BCRs 9 and 15	State of California Threatened and Endangered Birds List	State of California Fully Protected Animals List	CA Dept. of Fish and Game Bird Species of Special Concern List (2003)	California Bird Species of Special Concern List (PRBO)	Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Birds of Conservation Concern (2002) – FWS Region One, BCRs 9, 15, 33	Bird Species of Conservation Concern List - BLM	Sensitive Species List – USDA Forest Service – Region Five	Sierra Nevada Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Great Basin Ecoregional Conservation Blueprint (TNC)	Mojave Desert Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	Klamath Mountains Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	Columbia Plateau Ecoregional Plan (TNC - 1999)
Red-breasted Sapsucker										X										
Red-naped Sapsucker																				X
Red-necked Phalarope					X															
Ring-necked Duck	X	X																		
Ruffed Grouse										X										
Rufous Hummingbird			X							X			X						X	
Sage Grouse											X			X		X	X			X
Sage Sparrow				X									X				X			X
Sage Thrasher				X													X			X
Sandhill Crane			X			X	X	X												
Savannah Sparrow				X																
Scott's Oriole																		X		
Semipalmated Plover					X															
Semipalmated Sandpiper					X															
Sharp-shinned Hawk										X										
Short-eared Owl			X							X	X									
Snowy Egret						X				X										
Snowy Plover			X		X						X		X							
Solitary Sandpiper			X		X								X							
Song Sparrow				X																
Sora											X									
Southern Bald Eagle									X											
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher								X		X		X					X	X		
Spotted Sandpiper					X															
Summer Tanager											X							X		
Swainson's Hawk				X				X		X			X		X		X		X	
Swainson's Thrush				X												X				
Tri-colored Blackbird			X							X			X	X					X	
Trumpeter Swan	X								X											
Tule Greater-fronted Goose											X									
Tule Greater White-fronted Goose	X	X							1											
Tundra Swan	X																			

Species	NAWMP and IWJV Strategic Plan (1995) Priority Waterfowl Species	NAWCA Priority Waterfowl Species, BCRs 9, 15, and 33	NAWCA Priority Bird Species, BCRs 9, 15 and 33	CA PIF Conservation Plans (BCP) Focal Bird Species for 4 Major Habitat Types	US Shorebird Conservation Plan and Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan	North American Waterbird Conservation Plan	Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan – BCRs 9 and 15	State of California Threatened and Endangered Birds List	State of California Fully Protected Animals List	CA Dept. of Fish and Game Bird Species of Special Concern List (2003)	California Bird Species of Special Concern List (PRBO)	Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Birds of Conservation Concern (2002) – FWS Region One, BCRs 9, 15, 33	Bird Species of Conservation Concern List - BLM	Sensitive Species List – USDA Forest Service – Region Five	Sierra Nevada Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Great Basin Ecoregional Conservation Blueprint (TNC)	Mojave Desert Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	Klamath Mountains Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	Columbia Plateau Ecoregional Plan (TNC - 1999)
Vaux's Swift				X						X										ı
Vermilion Flycatcher																		X		
Virginia's Warbler				X						X			X				X			X
Warbling Vireo			X	X																
Western Grebe						X	X													
Western Least Bittern																		X	X	
Western Meadowlark				X																
Western Sandpiper					X															
Western Tanager				X																
Western Wood-Pewee			X																	
Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo								X		X					X	X	X	X	X	
Whimbrel			X										X							
White-faced Ibis			X			X	X			X						X	X			
White-headed Woodpecker													X							
White-tailed Kite				X					X	X										
Willet					X															
Williamson's Sapsucker													X							
Willow Flycatcher			X	X				X		X					X	X				X
Wilson's Phalarope			X		X								X				X			
Wilson's Snipe					X															
Wilson's Warbler				X																
Wood Duck	X																			
Wrangel Island Snow Goose	X	X																		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			X	X									X							X
Yellow-breasted Chat				X						X	X	X					X	X		X
Yellow-headed Blackbird			X							X	X					X				
Yellow Rail			X				X			X	X		X							Į
Yellow Warbler			X	X						X			X					X		X